



2025 FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championships

DECEMBER 25-31
DOHA, QATAR



FIDE WORLD RAPID AND BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

26 – 30 DEC | DOHA

Technical Meeting

10 DEC | on-line





**FIDE World Rapid &
Blitz Championships**
Qatar 2025

GENERAL INFORMATION

ORGANIZERS & PRINCIPALS

Chief Arbiter	Nebojsa Baralic (SRB)	+381 64 3232 910
Deputy Chief Arbiter	Ana Srebrnic (SLO)	+386 31 376 897
Deputy Chief Arbiter	Sultan Ali Al Taher (UAE)	+971 50 444 0069
Pairing Officer	Laurent Freyd (FRA)	+33 6 22 31 76 10
Pairing Officer	Martin Dobrotka (SVK)	+421 905 360 654
Chief Fair Play Officer	Gopakumar M S (IND)	+91 98686 24216
Technical Delegate	Viktor Bologan (MDA)	+974 5576 9611
Press Officer	Milan Dinic (SRB)	+44 7541 921732

APPEALS COMMITTEE

Chairman

Victor Bologan (MDA)

+974 5576 9611

Member

Sava Stoisavljevic (SRB)

Member

Stephane Escafre (FRA)

Reserve Member

TBA

Reserve Member

TBA



FIDE World Rapid &
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SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Event	Place
10 th December	15:00	Technical Meeting	On-line / Zoom
25 th December	Whole Day	Arrivals	
26 th December	13:00	Opening Ceremony	Playing Hall
26 th December	14:00	RAPID - Rounds - Open 1-5 / Women 1-4	Playing Hall
27 th December	14:00	RAPID - Rounds - Open 6-9 / Women 5-8	Playing Hall
28 th December	14:00	RAPID - Rounds - Open 10-13 / Women 9-11 + Play Off	Playing Hall
29 th December	14:00	BLITZ - Rounds - Open 1-13 / Women 1-10	Playing Hall
30 th December	14:00	BLITZ - Rounds - Open 14-19 / Women 11-15	Playing Hall
30 th December	17:30 / 17:15	BLITZ – Semi Finals - Open and Women	Playing Hall
30 th December	19:15 / 19:00	BLITZ – Final - Open and Women	Playing Hall
30 th December	21:00	Closing Ceremony	Playing Hall
31 st December	Whole Day	Departures	

RAPID

Dec, 25

Arrivals

Dec, 26

Opening Ceremony

		OPEN		WOMEN
Dec, 26	2:00 PM	Round 1	2:00 PM	Round 1
	3:20 PM	Round 2	3:20 PM	Round 2
	4:40 PM	Round 3	4:40 PM	Round 3
	6:00 PM	Round 4	6:00 PM	Round 4
	7:20 PM	Round 5		-
Dec, 27	2:00 PM	Round 6	2:00 PM	Round 5
	3:20 PM	Round 7	3:20 PM	Round 6
	4:40 PM	Round 8	4:40 PM	Round 7
	6:00 PM	Round 9	6:00 PM	Round 8
Dec, 28	2:00 PM	Round 10	2:00 PM	Round 9
	3:20 PM	Round 11	3:20 PM	Round 10
	4:40 PM	Round 12	4:40 PM	Round 11
	6:00 PM	Round 13		-



		OPEN			WOMEN
Dec, 29	2:00 PM	Round 1	2:00 PM	Round 1	
	2:30 PM	Round 2	2:30 PM	Round 2	
	3:00 PM	Round 3	3:00 PM	Round 3	
	3:30 PM	Round 4	3:30 PM	Round 4	
	4:00 PM	Round 5	4:00 PM	Round 5	
	4:30 PM	Round 6	4:30 PM	Round 6	
	5:00 PM	Round 7	5:00 PM	Round 7	
	5:30 PM	Round 8	5:30 PM	Round 8	
	6:00 PM	Round 9	6:00 PM	Round 9	
	6:30 PM	Round 10	6:30 PM	Round 10	
	7:00 PM	Round 11	7:00 PM	-	
	7:30 PM	Round 12	7:30 PM	-	
	8:00 PM	Round 13	7:30 PM	-	
Dec, 30	2:00 PM	Round 14	2:00 PM	Round 11	
	2:30 PM	Round 15	2:30 PM	Round 12	
	3:00 PM	Round 16	3:00 PM	Round 13	
	3:30 PM	Round 17	3:30 PM	Round 14	
	4:00 PM	Round 18	4:00 PM	Round 15	
	4:30 PM	Round 19			
	5:30 PM	Semi-Finals	5:15 PM	Semi-Finals	
	7:15 PM	Final	7:00 PM	Final	
Dec, 30		9:00 PM	CLOSING CEREMONY		
Dec, 31	Departures				



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Technical Information

The number of registered players:

- RAPID Open – 245 players
- RAPID Women – 143 players
- BLITZ Open – 248 players
- BLITZ Women – 142 players

Drawing for colours for all four (4) events will be done during the Opening Press Conference, 25th December 2025 at 16:00.

Pairings for the 1st Round (RAPID) will be published on 25th December in the evening.

Pairings for the 1st Round (BLITZ) will be published on 28th December in the evening.



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On-site Registration

Information desks will be open at the Official Hotels, 24 hours per day starting from 24th December 2025. Players will receive their badges after the check in.

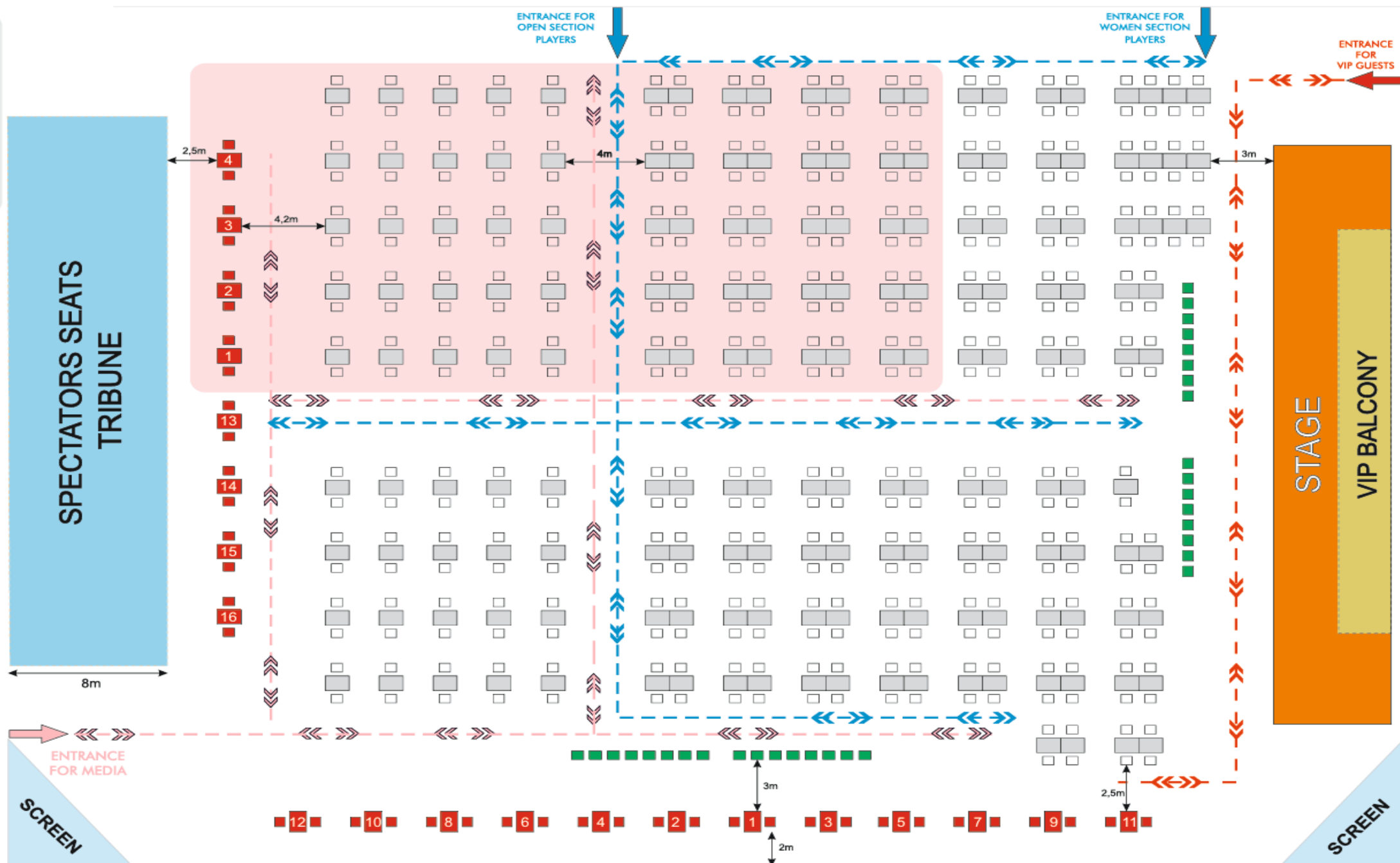
The only way to ensure you are paired in Round 1 of the Rapid tournament is to register at any information desk, so that we know you have arrived.

Playing Venue

The FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championships 2025 take place at the Sports and Events Complex of Qatar University (Address: 9FGV+W72, Doha, Qatar).
Transfer will be provided from the Official Hotels.



- Route of players
- Route of VIP guests
- Route for MEDIA
- MAIN TABLES
TOP-8 OPEN
TOP-8 WOMEN
- VIP SEATS
- 200 TABLES**





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Playing Venue

Summary – areas accessible during the games:

- Playing hall
- Players' toilets
- Smoking area

Corridor for players and entrance hall:

- Two official entrances for the players (Men and Women)
- Security checks



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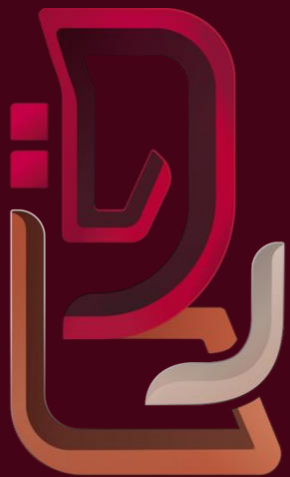
Communication

FIDE has set up the following means of communicating with players:

Email: worldrapidandblitz@fide.com

WhatsApp Channel: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IsLS51IV6lGKyc7yxCDsuN>

Telegram Channel: <https://t.me/+iajoSt-XJpwxMzBk>



**FIDE World Rapid &
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REGULATIONS

FORMAT

World **Rapid** Championship: (Dec 26-28)

- 15 minutes + 10 seconds increment per move
- 13 rounds for the Open section
- 11 Rounds for Women's section

World **Blitz** Championship Stage 1: (Dec 29)

- 3 minutes + 2 seconds increment per move
- 19 rounds for Open section
- 15 Rounds for Women's section

World **Blitz** Championship Stage 2: (Dec 30)

- Knockout (Semifinals, and Final)



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Regulations

Start time

Games will start every day at 2:00 PM

Arrival time

It is recommended that you come to the playing hall for at least 15-30 minutes before the start of the game, so that we have time to do a Fair Play check.

Default time

There is no default time.

Pairings

Pairings shall be done according to the FIDE pairing system for Swiss events.

Winners

The player with the most points shall be declared the World Champion (Rapid / Blitz)



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Regulations / Tie-Break

If the top two or more players score the same number of points, the tie-break will determine the Standings, for Rapid and Blitz.

1. Buchholz Cut 1
2. Buchholz
3. Average rapid rating of Opponents Cut 1 (AROC 1)
4. Direct encounter between the players in tie
5. Drawing of lots

RAPID: All prizes money is divided equally among all players with the same score.

BLITZ: All prizes money is divided equally among all players with the same score who did not qualify for Stage 2.



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Regulations / Tie-Break

c. 07. Tie-Break Regulations, art. 16.4 has been updated and we will use the following version:

16.4 - To calculate the participant's own tie-break, each of their unplayed rounds is evaluated as if the participant had played against a dummy, with the result (win, draw, loss) corresponding to the points awarded. The dummy's score for the tie-break calculation is the participant's own score.

However, it shall not exceed:

16.4.1 the scheduled opponent's adjusted score (see Article 16.3), for unplayed rounds of categories 16.2.2 and 16.2.4 (forfeits);

16.4.2 the points awarded for a draw multiplied by the number of rounds in the tournament, for all other unplayed rounds (categories 16.2.1, 16.2.3 and 16.2.5).



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Regulations / Winners – Rapid - Open

- A) - If there are 2 players tied, a match of 2 games shall be played between them
 - 3 minutes + 2 seconds/move
 - A drawing for colours shall determine who has white pieces in game 1;
The colour shall be reversed in game 2
 - If the match finished drawn, one sudden death game shall be played

- B) - For OPEN Tournament only
 - If there are more than 2 players tied, a knockout tournament shall be played
 - The players numbers shall be determined by the final standings according to the tie-break criteria
 - Each match shall be one sudden death game



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Regulations / Winners – Rapid - Women

- A) - If there is a tie for the 1st place, the top two (2) players in the final standings according to the tie-break criteria shall play a play-off match to determine the Women's World Rapid Champion
- 3 minutes + 2 seconds/move
 - A drawing for colours shall determine who has white pieces in game 1;
The colour shall be reversed in game 2
 - If the match finished drawn, one sudden death game shall be played



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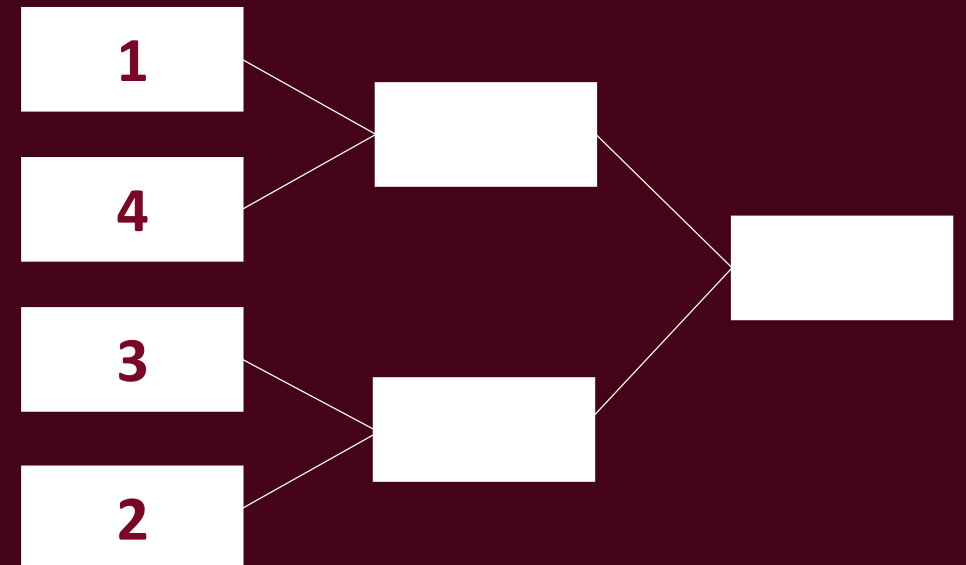
Regulations / Winners - Blitz

After Stage 1, four (4) players with the most points shall qualify for Stage 2.

If two or more players scores the same number of points, the tie-break will determine the Standings.

STAGE 2

- 4 players knock out, 4-game matches
- The players' numbers in the standard knockout bracket shall be determined by the final standing of Stage 1
- A player who scores more points than the other player wins the match
- If the score is level after four blitz games, one sudden death game shall be played to determine the winner of the match





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Regulations / Sudden death game

Described in the Regulations – Appendix 2. Sudden Death Game Rules

The sudden death game shall be the following:

- White shall have 4 minutes + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.
- Both players shall submit a time bid – specifying how much starting time they are willing to play with as Black, also with a 2-second increment per move, starting from move 1.

A bid cannot be more than 4 minutes.

The player who submits the lowest time wins the bid and plays with Black. If the players make exactly the same bid, Black starts with that amount of time; a drawing of lots shall determine the colours.

- If the sudden death game is drawn, Black will win the match.

OPEN PRIZE FUND TOTAL €700,000



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FINAL RANKING

1st
2nd
3rd
4th
5th
6th
7th
8th
9th
10th
11th - 17th
18th - 25th
26th - 35th

RAPID

70,000
50,000
36,000
28,000
23,000
19,000
16,000
13,000
11,000
10,000
5,000 each
3,000 each
1,500 each

BLITZ

70,000
50,000
28,000
28,000
24,000
21,000
18,000
15,000
12,000
10,000
5,000 each
3,000 each
1,500 each

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES IN EUROS

WOMEN

PRIZE FUND

TOTAL € 310,000



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FINAL RANKING

1st
2nd
3rd
4th
5th
6th
7th
8th
9th
10th
11th - 15th
16th - 20th

RAPID

40,000
27,000
19,000
14,000
11,000
8,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,500
2,500 each
1000 each

BLITZ

40,000
25,000
15,000
15,000
12,000
9,500
7,500
5,500
4,500
3,500
2,500 each
1000 each

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES IN EUROS

Draw Claims

Each tournament will have one arbiter specifically assigned to investigate draw claims on the basis of the 50-move rule and repetition rule.

A player should:

1. Pause the clock and call their sector arbiter
2. Once the sector arbiter is satisfied the player's claim is legal, they will refer it to the Draw Claim Arbiter (unless the claim is first agreed by the opponent)
3. The Draw Claim Arbiter will rule on the claim

In the event of the claim not being able to be handled by the Claim Tool for any reason (e.g. broadcast failure), the arbiters are empowered to make a decision based on any other evidence at their disposal (e.g. they have counted the correct number of moves themselves).

Reporting Results

Each arbiter will be provided with a protocol / tablet for the boards in their sector.

When a game ends, players should:

1. Pause their clock, and put the Kings in the centre to denote the result – this is for the benefit of the broadcast – white win e4/d5, black win d4/e5, draw d4/d5 or e4/e5.
2. Verbally report the result to their sector arbiter – this is for the benefit of the pairings team. “Kings in the centre” can go wrong, and arbiters will be instructed not to consider the King placement as being the result of the game.

Reporting Results

Players should not leave the playing area until they are satisfied that the result of their game is correctly recorded by the arbiter on their clipboard / tablet.

PLEASE CHECK THE RESULT!

Results will be published on screens in the players' holding area several minutes before the pairings for the next round are published.

Players should check the result is correct and inform the arbiter team about a wrong result as soon as one is discovered.

Bringing the Game into Disrepute

11.1 The players shall take no action that will bring the game of chess into disrepute.

After consultation with GSC, the following list of actions, which is not exhaustive, will be considered “disrepute”:

- Flagrant draw claims (50 moves and 3-fold repetition, etc.)
- Deliberate illegal moves (e.g. not attempting to move at all and just pressing the clock)

The primary factor in the arbiter’s decision making when determining if these claims are disreputable will be whether or not they were done with the intention of wasting time – i.e. allowing the player to gain thinking time while the arbiters investigate the claim.

If an arbiter believes that any such action was taken by a player with the intention of preventing their time expiring, the player should expect to be penalised by losing the game.

The Appeals Committee has been made aware of this policy.



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Appeals Procedure

The Chairman of the Appeals Committee is GM Victor Bologan (MDA).
The members are IA Sava Stoisavljevic (SRB) and IA Stephane Escafre (FRA).

In case of appeal:

- All protests must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Appeals Committee within 15 minutes, either after the round or the particular infringement.
- The protest must be accompanied with the deposit fee of 300 € (Open) or 150 € (Women).
- If the appeal is accepted, the fee shall be returned immediately. If the appeal is refused, the deposit is forfeited to the FIDE.



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Dress Code Requirements



Dress Code Requirements

The dress code is strictly observed for the tournament and all the official events and press-conferences.

Clothing allowed for men:

- Suit
- Dark business casual trousers, including classic, non-distressed jeans (blue, black, and grey)
- Unicoloured shirt (with minor deviations allowed, e.g. chequered or striped)
- Dress shoes and loafers with closed toes
- Unicoloured sneakers (soles can be a different colour)

Clothing allowed for women:

- Skirt suit, pantsuit, dress suit
- Dress
- Dark business casual trousers, including classic, non-distressed jeans (dark blue, black and grey)
- Shirt/blouse
- Dress shoes and loafers
- Unicoloured sneakers (soles can be a different colour)

The clothes and shoes shall be neat and free of offensive slogans, tears, or rips.

No players with t-shirts, shorts, baseball caps or inappropriate dress are allowed in the playing venue.

Any requests to wear national or traditional dress shall be approved by FIDE Technical Delegate.

Dress Code - Sanctions

Minor Infringements are those committed without specific intent.

First Infringement - will result in a financial penalty of 5% of the player's total prize money earned in the two events, but not less than €300 for open events and €150 for women's events.

The player is allowed to complete the current day and is not obliged to change immediately.

Further Infringements - Subsequent infringements will result in exclusion from the pairings for the next round.

Major Infringements are those demonstrating disregard for or denial of the dress code rules as a whole, or showing disrespect toward FIDE, the opponent, or their countries and national symbols.

Examples include, but are not limited to, wearing shorts, beachwear, sleeveless shirts (for men), or clothing/footwear with offensive content or logos of prohibited sponsors (e.g., betting companies, alcohol, tobacco).

Each infringement will result in a financial penalty of 10% of the player's total prize money earned in the two events, but not less than €1,000 for open events and €500 for women's events.

The player will also be excluded from the pairings for the next round.

In case of dispute the issue of acceptability of clothing shall be decided by FIDE Technical Delegate.



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FAIR - PLAY

Chief Fair-Play Officer: GOPAKUMAR M S (IND)



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FAIR - PLAY

FAIR PLAY TEAM

- The team comprises **Fair Play Officers (FPOs)**, **Fair Play Experts (FPEs)**, and **volunteers/security personnel**, working together under the leadership of **Chief Fair Play Officer IA & FPO Gopakumar M S of IND** along with **Event Fair Play Officers IA & FPO Kaussar Bauyrzhan of KAZ**, **IA & FPE Amir Erfan Hashemi of IRI**, **IA & FPE Candidate Elsa Wei Chung Yueh of TPE** and **IA & FPE Candidate Mohammad Alhallak**.



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FAIR - PLAY

OVERVIEW

- Throughout the event, the Fair Play Team will implement a range of **visible and invisible, on-site and remote** measures designed to uphold fair competition and protect the integrity of the event. These measures aim to create a secure and trustworthy atmosphere for all participants.



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FAIR - PLAY

ACCESSING THE PLAYING AREA

- Accreditation is **mandatory** for access to the playing hall. All players must **wear their accreditation visibly** at all times when not seated at their board.
- Players are **strongly advised** to leave wallets, backpacks, and other personal items in their hotel rooms.



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FAIR - PLAY

ACCESSING THE PLAYING AREA

- If carrying any necessary items, please use a **metal-free container** such as a small cloth pouch/bag.
- If you possess any prohibited or restricted item, you must **deposit it in the designated deposit area**.



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FAIR - PLAY

PRE-ROUND SCANNING

- All players will be scanned before each round. Please **do not enter the playing hall** before being scanned by the FPT.
- Players are advised to **arrive early** at the venue, considering both the fair play screening process and the event's default/round starting time.



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FAIR - PLAY

PLAYER CONDUCT DURING PLAY

- Players are **not permitted to communicate** with the general public or any third party while their game is in progress.
- Please **avoid repeated or prolonged eye contact** with associates or spectators during the game.



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FAIR - PLAY

SCANS DURING THE ROUND

- As per general rule, the players will be checked before or after the game. However, in exceptional circumstances players may be subject to additional scans if they leave and re-enter the playing area during the round.



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FAIR - PLAY

POST-GAME CHECKS

- Post-game checks will be conducted on **randomly selected** players in the **Fair Play Office**. During these checks, inspections may be **more detailed and comprehensive**. Players are requested to cooperate fully with the Fair Play Team (FPT), including removing shoes or other specific items if required.
- The FPT employs a combination of **low and high-technology scanning devices** designed to detect any prohibited electronic or communication equipment. All devices used are **completely safe from a medical standpoint**.



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FAIR - PLAY

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Mobile phones, laptops, tablets, smart glasses, or any other electronic devices not specifically approved by the Chief Arbiter or Chief Fair Play Officer
- Watches of any kind
- Headphones, earphones, earplugs, or similar devices
- Electronic cigarettes or vapes
- Pens (personal pens are not permitted)
- Sunglasses
- Any printed or digital chess-related material
- Large or complex bags
- Sports Caps/Hat



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FAIR - PLAY

BROADCAST DELAY

- To maintain fair play integrity, all live broadcasts will operate with a **5 minutes** delay for **Rapid** and **2 minutes** delay for **Blitz**.

GAME SCREENING

- All games are subject to **post-round statistical screening**.



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FAIR - PLAY

COOPERATION AND COMPLIANCE

- Full cooperation with the Fair Play Team is **mandatory**. Failure to comply with instructions or to cooperate during the game or pre/post-check may result in **serious disciplinary action**, including **forfeiture or expulsion from the event**, in accordance with the FIDE Fair Play Regulations.



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FAIR - PLAY

COMPLAINTS

- Any **fair play–related complaint** must be submitted **in writing** using the official complaint form, which can be obtained from a **Fair Play Officer** or accessed **online** through the FIDE FPL website.
- Players are **strictly prohibited** from making their complaints or suspicions **public** through any medium. Public discussion of such matters is **contrary to the spirit of fair play** and may negatively affect both the player and the tournament's integrity.



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FAIR - PLAY

COMPLAINTS

- Players who have fair play concerns are encouraged to **communicate discreetly** with a Fair Play Officer. Sharing doubts or suspicions in a confidential and respectful manner ensures that all issues are handled **professionally, fairly, and without unnecessary disruption** to the event.



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FAIR - PLAY

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

- In case any player is required to carry any device for medical reasons, please inform us before 20th December 2025 by email at **nebojsa.baralic@gmail.com & gopakumarchess@gmail.com** along with the supporting medical documents.



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FAIR - PLAY

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

- The **Fair Play Team** is your ally in ensuring that the tournament remains a **safe, fair, and enjoyable** environment for all participants. Players are encouraged to maintain a **spirit of full cooperation** with the FPT and other event officials at all times.

REGULATIONS / Links

Open:

https://handbook.fide.com/files/handbook/wrbc_regulations_2025_open.pdf

Women:

https://handbook.fide.com/files/handbook/wrbc_regulations_2025_women.pdf

Laws of Chess:

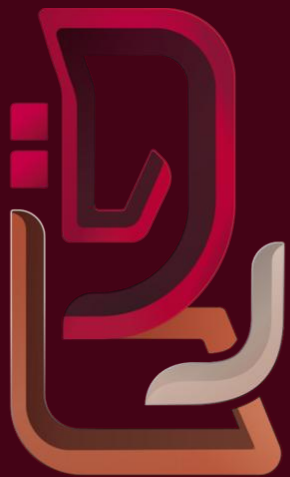
<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/E012023>

Appeals Committee Rules:

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/AppealsCommitteeProceduralRules>

Dress-code:

https://worldrapidandblitz2025.fide.com/files/Dress_Code_Doha_2025.pdf



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QUESTIONS ?